

FORTESCUE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

You are reminded of the restrictive covenants which attach to all houses on the estate. No extensions, conservatories or other external alterations are permitted without the prior written consent of the Residents Association

MINUTES OF THE 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FORTESCUE PARK RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (FPRA) HELD ON MONDAY 13TH JUNE 2016

In attendance: 25 residents including 7 Committee Members

The chairman Giles Norman formally welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the members of the committee.

1. Treasurer's Report

Our new Treasurer, Dominic Beattie, prepared a pie chart showing the breakdown of the p & l spending and income for 2015 (with 2014 as a comparison). He explained that the late Ray Wood left the accounts in very good order and the chairman thanked Ray posthumously for his work over the past few years. There is good liquidity in the association and Dominic will be filing the accounts in the next few days which will then be posted to the website.

2. Maintenance Fees for 2016

The fees are currently £270 per annum (reduced to £240 for early payment or by Standing order) – the committee proposed in the light of recent events (ie the wall repair) we should increase the fees to £ 330 per annum with an early payment discount of £ 30. Those present were in agreement. Please ensure that those paying by direct debit change the amount next year.

3. Gardens & Communal Areas Report

Gardens

Betty Wood advises that Gavin Jones continue to do an excellent job in the gardens working on a weekly basis and they were approved for re-appointment. Betty meets the gardeners every Friday morning at 07.30 to walk round the estate and also the manager on a regular basis. She also spends time with The Tree Company checking the condition of the trees we are all responsible for. Christine Ryan at no 49 was also thanked for stepping in whilst Betty was unwell and it was agreed that she will continue to support Betty with the gardens.

Betty indicated that a couple of smaller trees on the Hampton Road area will need to be removed since they are dead but she is not expecting any major expense in the next year. The winter bulbs will be planted soon. All requests for work to be carried out on the gardens should go through Betty and not be requested directly with the gardeners – either directly to Betty at no 56 or by email to the FPRA.

Communal areas/Passageways

It has been noticed that there has been an increase in the dumping of both garden waste and builders rubble etc in some of the passageways. This is totally unacceptable and a health hazard for adults and children. It was suggested that neighbours speak directly to each other to resolve this or contact the FPRA and we will have to pay for the rubbish to be removed.

It was mentioned that the gardeners could use a non-toxic spray on weeds in passageways but not to use trimmers due to the possibility of hedgehogs sheltering beneath bushes.

The issue of the Friday recycling was raised – all residents should take responsibility that their food and other recycling is not left in the street but cleared away. Some residents were unhappy with the work of the recycling team and it was agreed a letter should be sent to Richmond Council regarding this issue. It was mentioned that residents can purchase reusable nets to go over the boxes from Richmond Council. There are many urban foxes around the estate and we must discourage them.

4. **Neighbourhood Watch & Policing - Charles Owens**

Charles Owens commented that crime is still very low in our area. The only problems seem to be cars being left open on driveways or on the street which encourages thefts. Also if you see a garage left open in the evening please alert your neighbour since most thefts seem to take place from open garages – in particular, bicycles.

Charles mentioned that when dropping newsletters round the estate some time ago several front doors were left open and some with keys in the locks. However, no homes have been burgled for a long time. Residents can advise Charles regarding anything suspicious if they would prefer to remain anonymous.

The issue of conmen preying on vulnerable people was raised and we ask you to keep an eye on neighbours who may need some support.

Take photos of suspect vehicles from your mobile and call 999 if you suspect that a crime is in progress or 101 if it is not an emergency.

5. **Elect or reappoint committee members**

Those present elected to re-appoint the committee for the following year and the committee accepted. Giles asked if any resident wanted to consider joining the committee and to contact us after the meeting

AOB

- **Wall damage** – no quotes as yet but looking at designs to use the bricks we have saved. Possibly a dwarf wall with fence panels and cement posts in the FPRA owned sections- but only the sections that have collapsed and not the entire wall.

House prices - One resident mentioned having received the first offer within the first three weeks and 3 subsequent offers within one week. It was felt that our house prices are not at the level of the surrounding area.

Parking on estate roads - This issue was brought up again and residents asked to use garages and driveways whenever possible. It was agreed that we don't want to invite parking permits or yellow lines around the estate. There was special concern about parking on the estate corners. This can be very challenging for larger vehicles, emergency vehicles and delivery vehicles. There is an ice cream seller who consistently parks on the double yellow lines on Wellesley Road at the entrance to Shaftesbury Way and despite requests refuses to park elsewhere. It was recommended that parents avoid buying their ices from this van.

Summer BBQ & Flowering Doorstep competition - we have been offered use of a BBQ by one of our residents so we will look for another date in July and post on the notice boards and website (weather permitting!) and we will also present Squires vouchers for three winners of the flowering doorstep competition.

- Gate latch strengthened – other options not feasible since no electricity at gate. Residents requested not to give non residents keys to Loch Fyne gate

- Young residents playing football in road – concerns about damage to plants and cars but it was mentioned they only play with softballs.

- Street drains – after trying to receive compensation for 5 years we are now resorting to a final notice to council

Committee members Giles Norman no 62/ Vanessa Cozens no 6 /
Charles Owens no 74/ Betty Wood no 56/ Lloyd Reynolds no 6b
Wellesley/ Clare Marsden no 91 / Treasurer Dominic Beattie

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